

To: Stephen Twyerould[stwyerould@excelsiormining.com]; Roland Goodgame[rgoodgame@excelsiormining.com]; Jeff Bickel[jbickel@excelsiormining.com]
Cc: Shelby Thomason[sthomason@excelsiormining.com]
From: Rebecca Sawyer
Sent: Thur 1/4/2018 4:31:17 PM
Subject: FW: Sierra Vista Herald: Our survival depends on population

Eric Petermann includes a good plug for Gunnison in this Editorial.

From: Natalie Luna [mailto:Natalie@kaneenpr.com]
Sent: Wednesday, January 03, 2018 4:48 PM
To: Rebecca Sawyer <rsawyer@excelsiormining.com>; Joan Beckim <joan@kaneenpr.com>
Subject: Sierra Vista Herald: Our survival depends on population

http://www.myheraldreview.com/opinion/our-survival-depends-on-population/article_350c9060-ec3e-11e7-9a9c-bb0558c06ea5.html

OPINION

Our survival depends on population

•■■■■■■■■■ Dec 29, 2017

All the tax incentives, all the campaign promises, all the promotional efforts to inspire economic development won't be successful without one key ingredient.

Population.

Last week Arizona's Office of Economic Opportunity announced that the number of people in Cochise County declined in 2017 compared to the previous year by 757 residents — more than one-half percent and bringing our total down to 128,383 men, women and children.

The good news is that it should be easier to find a parking spot at the local Walmart, and the bad news is that with fewer people Cochise County will qualify for less government aid and the cost of providing our public services will be spread among fewer taxpayers.

Pundits will point to several reason for this continuing decline, and many will be at least partially correct in their assessments. Since our heyday prior to the national economic collapse in 2008, the Greater Sierra Vista area was on track to become a healthy and prosperous place.

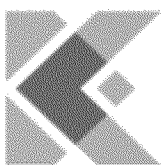
Then Fort Huachuca began cutting back, the federal government imposed sequestration and defense contractors reduced the local workforce. Together with an unhealthy housing market and a widely-held perception that living close to the border with Mexico was dangerous, the population in Cochise County plummeted from near 132,000 at the start of the decade, to our present total.

Today, while Phoenix and the rest of Arizona have enjoyed a rebounding economy and steady population growth for the past several years, Cochise County and its largest city have been mired in financial quicksand, steadily declining and unable to climb back to prosperity.

We are not without hope. Efforts to secure a new commercial port of entry near Douglas provide the promise of new economic activity and employment opportunities. Opening of a new, environmentally-friendly, copper mine east of Benson in 2018 offer the prospect of good-paying jobs. The ongoing petitions of two large real estate developers — Castle & Cooke of Arizona and El Dorado of Benson — may soon turn renderings into reality and advertise this region as an ideal destination to the growing number of retirees at the national level.

For now, hope is all we can cling to against a reality that exposes a disturbing trend.

Economic development in Sierra Vista and Cochise County can't happen if our population continues to decline.



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